

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Autism Awareness Month. We once lived in a world where polio was an epidemic that killed kids and left others with debilitating paralysis. Thankfully, medical and scientific advances largely have eliminated the threat from this and many other dreaded diseases and conditions. Yet our understanding of autism remains an unsolved puzzle.

Mr. Speaker, autism affects too many children, including my nephew Trey, and strains families, as I know firsthand. It is time to commit ourselves as a Nation to solving this modern epidemic so autism can be prevented, treated, and cured tomorrow like polio is today.

HONORING SEAN SMITH

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sean Smith, an information technology specialist killed in the September 11, 2012, terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. Sean was called "one of our best" at the State Department by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Originally from San Diego, California, Sean enlisted in the Air Force in 1995. In 2002, he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal and joined the United States Foreign Service.

President Barack Obama stated:

Sean Smith lived to serve, first in the Air Force, then at the State Department. He knew the perils of his calling. And there in Benghazi, far from home, he laid down his life in the service to all of us.

Sean was also a loving husband and a proud father. He was devoted to his wife, Heather, and to his two children, Samantha and Nathan.

Mrs. Smith said of her late husband:

Sean supported the mission of diplomacy and served his country with pride and optimism.

I wish to offer my deepest condolences and the deepest condolences of this House to the Smith family. Please know that your family will continue to be in our prayers and our thoughts. And thank you and your late husband for your selfless service to our country. May God bless you.

TRUTH TELLING WITH FLIGHT DELAYS

(Mr. RIBBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the American people some truth telling about what is going on with the FAA and flight delays. We have been told this is all the result of the sequester. And yet in 2001, there were about 30,000 takeoffs per day in the United States, and they did that with about \$6 billion worth of funding.

Today, takeoffs are only 20,000 a day, and they have \$10 billion of funding. In 2001, there were 14,000 air traffic operators, and today there are 14,000 air traffic operators.

So if it's not a demand problem because demand went down, if it's not a people problem because they have the same people, and it's not a resource problem because they have about 100 percent more money, what is the problem?

I contend to you, Mr. Speaker, it's a political problem. It's time to tell the administration to stop playing politics with the American people.

GUN SAFETY

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, last week was a profoundly disturbing week for those of us from Connecticut and for Americans as a whole. When this body, when the institution of Congress failed to do anything to promote gun safety in the face of the tragedy at Newtown, this institution let the American people down.

When a Senator on the Republican side with an "A" rating from the NRA and a Senator from the Democratic side with an "A" rating from the NRA put forward a background check measure that fails, we fail.

Look, we can and we should debate what kind of weapons Americans should have a right to. We can and we should debate how many bullets can go into a magazine. There is no principled argument for why we should not check out someone who wants to buy a weapon. And yet, we couldn't make that argument in the Congress of the United States.

So as a result, some time soon, a terrorist will buy a gun at a gun show. Some time soon, a violent felon will buy a gun online. And as a result, Americans will die. And this institution will bear the blame. This was not a proud moment, Mr. Speaker, for the Congress of the United States.

KILAH DAVENPORT CHILD PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act. Just a year ago, a 3-year-old girl was rammed against a wall head first, suffering irreparable brain damage and being paralyzed for the rest of her life. When the DA went to prosecute, he found in North Carolina that the sentencing was limited to 4 to 7 years, a very minimum sentence for such an egregious act. Upon further review, we found that other States also have such minimum sentencing, some with no minimum whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, our act would provide that there would be a minimum sen-

tence of 10 years to receive Federal grants for child abuse. We commend this legislation to this respected body and ask for their support.

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GET RID OF SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. The simple question is asked, why are we in such a dilemma of complexity and absolutely abandoning the American people? That's what sequestration is all about.

And I know it's hard to tell a story again, but sequestration came about because a whole sizeable population of Members, Republican Members, did not want to pay America's bills.

But we can, as a bipartisan, collective body that responds to America, avoid the loss of 2 million jobs and a .6 percent drag on the economy and \$67.8 million lost for primary and secondary education in Texas, \$51 million lost for education of children with disabilities, and 4,800 Head Start seats lost. We can come together.

We can pass H.R. 900, which gets rid of the sequestration, or we can call for the budget conferees to, once and for all, address the question of America.

The reason why we have a slowdown of FAA, it's because the people are furloughed. You can have 50,000 FAA air traffic controllers; but if they're furloughed, they can't work.

Let's work on behalf of the American people—have the budget conferees now pass H.R. 900, get rid of the sequestration.

THE SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL PROVIDES COVER FOR TERRORISTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Senate immigration bill provides cover for suspected terrorists and others who would do us harm. After 6 months, it legalizes millions of people in the country illegally. They can then get work permits, Social Security cards, and driver's licenses. This gives them a legitimate cover to travel and plot attacks.

And mass legalization will encourage others to enter the country illegally so they too can obtain cover documents.

Any immigration bill should put the safety of Americans first. We should go slowly before giving amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants long before we have secure borders.

SIBLING VISAS

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Twenty-four years, a quarter century. Imagine not being able to